



## South Dakota State Fair

### Huron, South Dakota

The origin of the South Dakota State Fair, the front ranking state exposition, was an act of the Territorial Legislature in 1885. This act created the Board of Agriculture for the purpose of "forwarding agriculture, horticulture, manufacturing and the domestic arts." The fair traveled to various communities within the state



for a number of years and finally found a permanent home in Huron in 1905 when the Central and North Western Railway Company deeded 85 acres to the state of South Dakota for the purpose of establishing the State Fairgrounds. To the original tract of land, 66 more acres were added in 1912 and 19 acres west of Lincoln Avenue bringing the total to 170 acres.

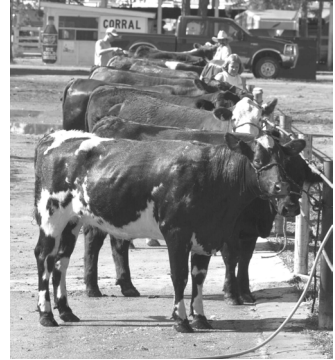


The fairgrounds is an extremely versatile property. It is the home of South Dakota's "premiere" event of the year and hosts interim events throughout the remainder of the year. With 90 buildings on the grounds, 1256 campground sites, park areas, grandstand facilities, and parking, event possibilities are unlimited. The fairgrounds is capable of hosting events such as rodeos, livestock shows, Christmas

shows and activities, art shows, conferences, school and family reunions, car and bike shows – almost any event imaginable.

The legislature has at various times appropriated funds for major construction projects and capital expenditures. Fair week revenues and fees from off-season events generate much of the fair's funding. The state fair staff is year round and responsible for keeping the structures and the grounds in good repair. The South Dakota State Fair is under the Department of Agriculture, specifically the Secre-

tary of Agriculture. The State Fair Commission is created within that department and acts in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of Agriculture. The commission may consist of up to thirteen members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. Seven of the members may be appointed at large; an additional six members may be appointed from each of the following: 4-H Clubs of South Dakota, a resident of the city of Huron, a resident of Beadle County, a vendor, an exhibitor, and an employee of the South Dakota State University. Not all of the members may be of the same political party.



The promotion of agricultural, industrial and youth activities continue to be the primary mission of the fair. The fair is a stimulus for all area of commerce as the “showcase” for South Dakota businesses. The fair also continues to be one of the last truly “agricultural” fairs in the nation.

The annual state fair begins the Saturday prior to Labor Day and ends the Saturday after Labor Day. The state fair administration office is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 – 5:00 pm, closed on holidays. They can be contacted by phone at 605-353-7340, by email at [jodi.burma@state.sd.us](mailto:jodi.burma@state.sd.us), by mail at 890 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SW, Huron, SD, 57350 or through the website [www.sdstatefair.com](http://www.sdstatefair.com).

